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Girls' School from **HECK** Part 1 of 3

# EXCALIBUR





THE POWERFUL CAPTAIN BRITAIN, THE SHAPE-CHANGING MEGGAN, THE INTANGIBLE SHADOWCAT, THE SWASHBUCKLING NIGHTCRAWLER, THE MYSTERIOUS PHOENIX, THE EVER-UNPREDICTABLE WIDGET AND LOCKHEED THE DRAGON FORGED IN THE FIRES OF THEIR TRAGIC PASTS, THEY HAVE Banded TOGETHER TO FIGHT A MODERN DAY CRUSADE AGAINST THE FORCES OF EVIL! STAN LEE PRESENTS...

VERRUKT,  
DEGENERATE,  
DEMOCRATIC  
SWINE--

-- WE WILL  
TEACH YOU  
TO DEFEAT THE  
POWER OF THE  
ETERNAL  
REICH!

ALL FORCES  
ATTACK--

EXCALIBUR  
**DESTROY  
EXCALIBUR!**



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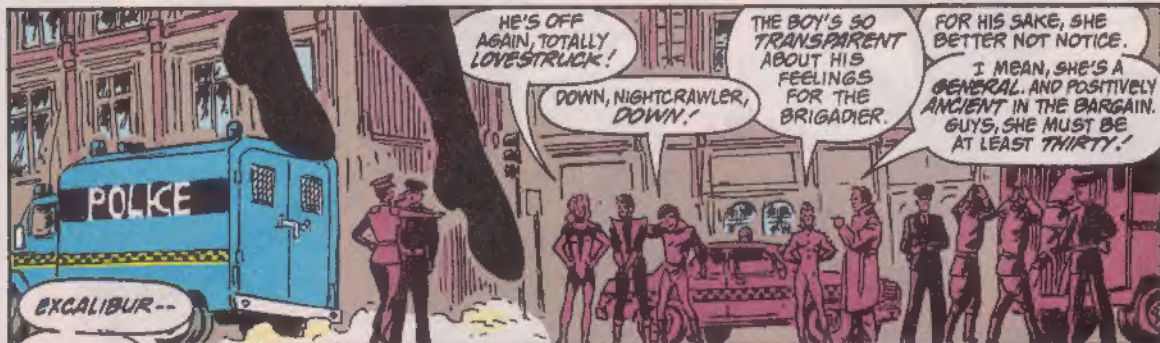
... AND HANDED OVER TO THE TENDER MERCIES OF HER BRITANNIC MAJESTY'S WEIRD HAPPENINGS ORGANIZATION (IN THE PERSON OF ITS COMMANDER, BRIGADIER ALYSANDE STUART, AND ITS POLICE LIASON, C.I.D. COMMANDER DAI THOMAS OF SCOTLAND YARD.)



THE USUAL  
GOOD JOB,  
LADS.

THANKS  
FOR THE  
ASSIST.

OUR PLEASURE,  
COMMANDER  
THOMAS.



HE'S OFF  
AGAIN, TOTALLY  
LOVESTUCK!

THE BOY'S SO  
TRANSPARENT  
ABOUT HIS  
FEELINGS  
FOR THE  
BRIGADIER.

FOR HIS SAKE, SHE  
BETTER NOT NOTICE.  
I MEAN, SHE'S A  
GENERAL AND POSITIVELY  
ANCIENT IN THE BARGAIN.  
GUYS, SHE MUST BE  
AT LEAST THIRTY!

DOWN, NIGHTCRAWLER,  
DOWN!

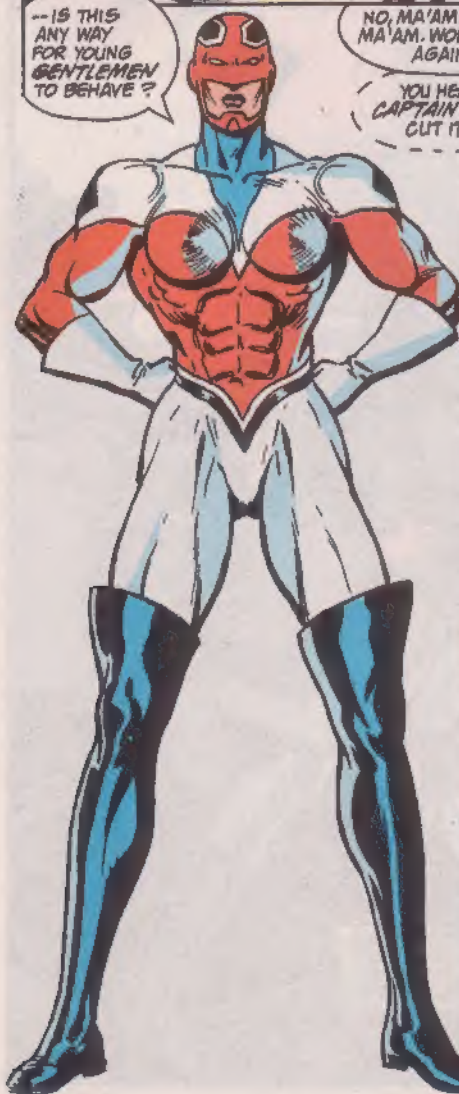
EXCALIBUR--

--IS THIS  
ANY WAY  
FOR YOUNG  
GENTLEMEN  
TO BEHAVE?

NO, MA'AM. SORRY,  
MA'AM. WON'T HAPPEN  
AGAIN.

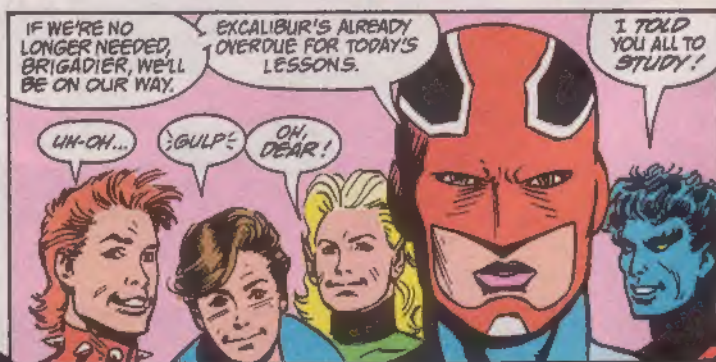
YOU HEARD  
CAPTAIN BRITAIN--  
CUT IT OUT!

SHOULDN'T BE TOO HARD  
ON THE LADS, CAPTAIN. THEY'RE  
JUST BOYS, AFTER ALL, AN'  
THEY'VE DONE WELL TODAY.



YOUR PARDON,  
COMMANDER, BUT  
IT'S PART AND  
PARCEL OF THEIR  
RESPONSIBILITY  
TO SET A PROPER  
EXAMPLE TO THE  
REST OF THEIR  
GENERATION.  
AND THE  
NATION AS  
WELL.

NOT ACT LIKE A GANG  
OF ROUGH-HOUSING  
TEARAWAYS.



IF WE'RE NO  
LONGER NEEDED,  
BRIGADIER, WE'LL  
BE ON OUR WAY.

EXCALIBUR'S ALREADY  
OVERDUE FOR TODAY'S  
LESSONS.

I TOLD  
YOU ALL TO  
STUDY!

UH-OH...

GULP!

OH,  
DEAR!



SOMEWHERE LATER, ON BRITAIN'S WILD WEST COAST, AT THE (SLIGHTLY HAUNTED) LIGHTHOUSE THAT SERVES OUR HEROES AS HOME AND HEADQUARTERS...

WASN'T SO BAD

ACED THAT TEST

DOOMED, I'M DOOMED

SHE'LL NEVER ALLOW ME TO WATCH TELLY AGAIN

LOOK WHAT I FOUND

WRETCHED STINKING SMELLY ROTTER--

IF I CATCH YOU, ELF, I'LL WRING--!

ONLY IF YOU CATCH ME!

--THAT'S MINE, GIVE IT BACK!

HA-MELUHM!

WHO'S FOR HOT COCOA?

"IT WAS THE BEST OF TIMES, IT WAS THE WORST OF TIMES..."

PLEASE, MISS-- HOW CAN IT BE THE BEST AND WORST?

THANK YOU, TIGER.

THINK OF IT LIKE WINNING A BATTLE...

...ONLY TO FIND YOURSELF HOPELESSLY TONGUE-TIED, FACE-TO-FACE WITH YOUR SECRET SWEETIE.

GROOR!

NOW, IF I MAY-- WITH YOUR KIND PERMISSION, OF COURSE--

--FINISH WITH MR. DICKENS...

YES, MA'AM.

THEN OFF YOU GO TO DREAMLAND.

SLEEP TIGHT, MY BOLD, BRAVE LADS.

~SIGH~

WILL THEY NEVER LEARN TO PROPERLY PUT AWAY THEIR CLOTHES?

IN TIME. WITH GUIDANCE.

THEY REPRESENT THE BRIGHT AND SHINING FUTURE OF THE REALM.

NURTURING THE ONE HELPS SAFEGUARD THE OTHER.

BOTH, THE PROVINCE AND DESTINY OF CAPTAIN BRITAIN.

A BURDEN WILLINGLY SHOULDERED, A FATE EAGERLY EMBRACED







# SOMEONE WILL DIE FOR THIS!

ON BEHALF OF  
ST. SEARLE'S,  
KATHERINE...

...WELCOME  
TO OUR SCHOOL  
FOR YOUNG  
LADIES.

AN ERROR IN TRANSCRIPTION.  
THEY HAPPEN OCCASIONALLY--  
GOOD HELP BEING SO HARD  
TO FIND, EVEN FOR THE  
MINISTRY.

THANK YOU, MISS  
RUTHERFORD.

I KNOW THIS  
WILL BE A  
CONSIDERABLE  
ADJUSTMENT  
FOR YOU...

REALLY STRANGE,  
THOUGH, HOW MY LETTER  
OF INTRODUCTION  
WAS TO "ST. CYRIL'S."

...AS AN  
AMERICAN  
ATTENDING  
A BRITISH  
SCHOOL.

I CAN  
HANDLE  
IT.

NO WORSE THAN  
THE TRANSITION I  
HAD TO MAKE WHEN  
I DISCOVERED I WAS  
A MUTANT AND JOINED  
THE X-MEN. OR LATER,  
WHEN I HELPED SOUND  
EXCALIBUR.

SINCE THEN,  
HEADMISTRESS, I'VE  
BEEN TO OTHER GALAXIES  
AND OTHER DIMENSIONS.  
I'VE MET GODS AND DEMONS.  
I'VE SEEN THOSE I LOVE  
DIE.

I'M SHADOWCAT.

IF I'VE LEARNED  
NOTHING ELSE IN  
MY LIFE...

...IT'S NOW ALWAYS--  
NO MATTER WHAT--TO  
LAND ON MY FEET!

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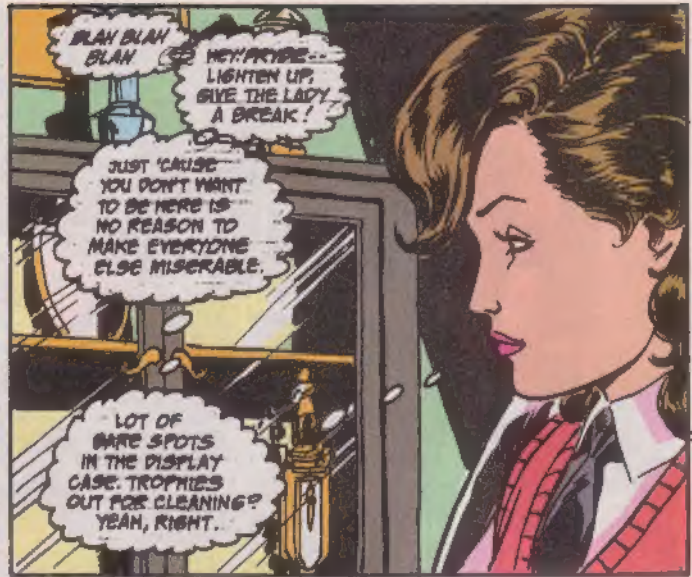




WE ARE AN OLD AND HONORABLE INSTITUTION...

...THOUGH PERHAPS NOT QUITE AS WELL-KNOWN AS OUR MALE COUNTERPARTS, SUCH AS ETON AND HARROW AND RUDDY.

I MYSELF CAME HERE AS A STUDENT, AND HAVE HAD THE GREAT GOOD FORTUNE TO RETURN AS HEADMISTRESS.



BLAH BLAH BLAH

HEY, PRIDE-- LIGHTEN UP, GIVE THE LADY A BREAK!

JUST 'CAUSE YOU DON'T WANT TO BE HERE IS NO REASON TO MAKE EVERYONE ELSE MISERABLE.

LOT OF BARE SPOTS IN THE DISPLAY CASE. TROPHIES OUT FOR CLEANING? YEAM, RIGHT.



IF ONLY EXCALIBUR AND I HADN'T GOTTEN SEPARATED...

...EVEN IF THE WORST HAPPENED, AT LEAST WE'D ALL STILL BE TOGETHER.

COURTNEY ROSS FEELS JUST AS TERRIBLE.

SHE STILL LOVES CAPTAIN BRITAIN. FOR HER, THIS IS THE SECOND TIME SHE'S HAD TO FACE THE POSSIBILITY OF NEVER SEEING HIM AGAIN.

FOR ME, THE SECOND TIME I'VE LOST A TEAM.

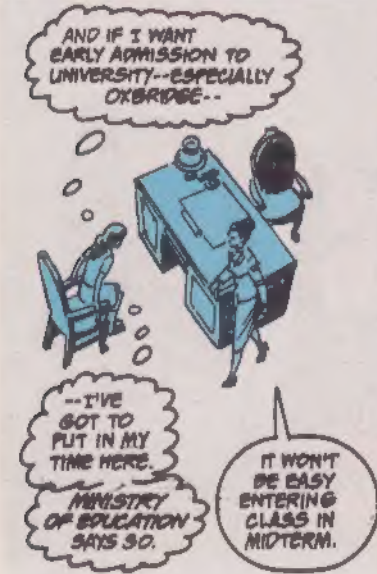
IS THAT WHY COURTNEY'S LOOKING AFTER ME, A WAY OF HOLDING ONTO A LINK WITH HIM?

THIS IS HER OLD SCHOOL, TOO. SHE TOLD ME IT WOULDN'T BE SO BAD.

HEY, HOW AWFUL CAN IT BE, RIGHT?

BETCHA, WITHIN A TERM, TOPS...

...I'M RUNNING THE PLACE.



AND IF I WANT EARLY ADMISSION TO UNIVERSITY--ESPECIALLY OXBRIDGE--

--I'VE GOT TO PUT IN MY TIME HERE.

MINISTRY OF EDUCATION SAYS SO.

IT WON'T BE EASY ENTERING CLASS IN MIDTERM.



AT FIRST, UNTIL YOU START MAKING FRIENDS, YOU'LL BE A BIT OF AN OUTCAST.

SO WHAT ELSE IS NEW?

MUTANTS ARE OUTCASTS FROM THE DAY THEY'RE BORN.



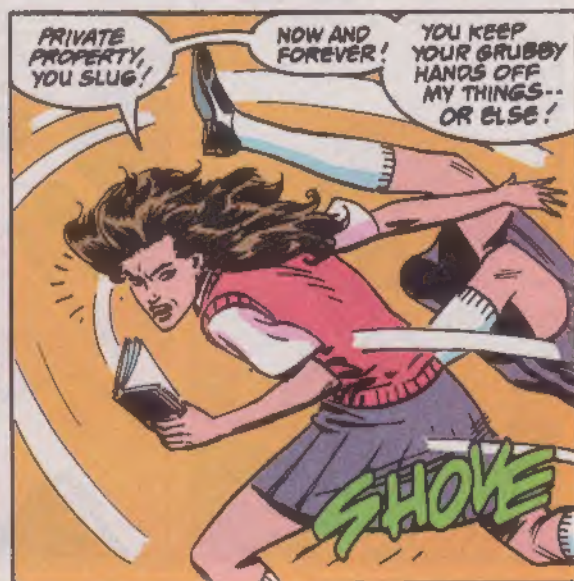
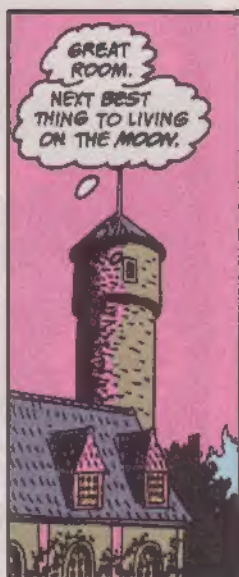
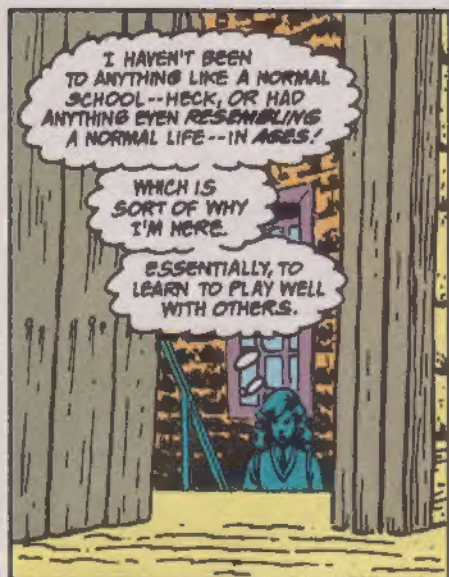
SHOULD YOU NEED ANYTHING--

--EVEN IF ONLY A SYMPATHETIC EAR TO BEND, OR A SHOULDER TO CRY ON--

--MY DOOR IS ALWAYS OPEN.

THANK YOU, MA'AM.









I'M SORRY,  
WE WERE  
ONLY--

--OWWW!

THUNK  
KLIK



NEVER  
APOLOGIZE,  
VERONIQUE--

--IT'S A  
SIGN OF  
WEAKNESS--

--AND ESPECIALLY  
NOT TO THE LIKES  
OF HER!



?! \*

WHAT THE  
HECK?!

SHE HIT  
ME! SHE  
CONNECTED!  
BUT THAT'S  
IMPOSSIBLE!

MY NATURAL  
STATE IS TO  
BE INTANGIBLE.  
I'M ONLY SOLID  
IF I WILL IT!



NICE SHOT,  
PHOEBE.

TAUGHT THE LITTLE COW  
A PROPER LESSON,  
I BET!

MY HAND!

OH THAT  
SMARTS!

FOR YOUR  
SAKE, PRYDE,  
MY NAILS BETTER  
BE INTACT.



FORGET THE  
NAILS, FEEBS!

WORRY MORE  
ABOUT YOUR  
FACE!



THAT,  
YOUNG  
LADY...

... WILL BE  
QUITE ENOUGH!



WHAT THE DEVIL IS  
GOING ON HERE?

MISS RUTHERFORD--  
SUCH LANGUAGE--  
GIGGLE!

PRYDE--  
HUNTSMAN--AN  
EXPLANATION,  
IF YOU PLEASE!

SHE  
STARTED  
IT!





HERE WE WERE, MISS RUTHERFORD, TRYING TO HELP THE NEW GIRL FIT IN...

.. WHEN SHE TEARS INTO US...

-- LIKE SOME HOOLIGAN!



THAT'S NOT TRUE!

THEY WERE IN MY STUFF!



HOW ELSE WERE WE GOING TO MAKE YOU FEEL AT HOME, SILLY, THAN BY PUTTING AWAY YOUR THINGS FOR YOU

PRYDE, MY STUDY.

HUNTSMAN, YOU OTHER GIRLS, TO YOUR OWN ROOMS.



I CONFESS, CHILD, I HAD HIGH HOPES.

IT WASN'T MY FAULT!

*St. Seneb's teaches young girls to become young ladies.*  
*young girls to become young ladies.*  
*young girls to become young ladies.*  
*young girls to become young ladies.*  
*teaches young girls to become*  
*young girls to be*  
*.. TO THE VERY BEST OF YOUR ABILITY.*

AND YOUR ONLY RESPONSE TO THE SITUATION WAS VIOLENCE?

PERHAPS, THEN, THIS WILL INSPIRE YOU TO FIND A BETTER, GENTLER WAY

CONSIDER IT AN EXERCISE IN DISCIPLINE

THIS HOMILY MUST NOT ONLY BE COPIED ONE THOUSAND TIMES, BUT IN SUPERB PENMANSHIP...



THIS IS FOR YOUR OWN GOOD, KATHERINE.

I PREFER KITTY.

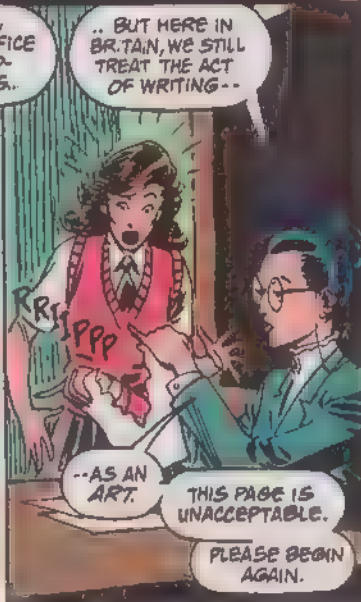
HERE'S THE FIRST PAGE.

PERHAPS ONE REASON YOU PERSIST IN SUCH CHILDISH BEHAVIOR IS YOUR CONTINUED AFFECTION OF A CHILD'S NICKNAME.



THAT TOO WE SHALL ENDEAVOUR TO CHANGE.

SUCH A SCRAWL, MY DEAR, MAY SUFFICE IN OUR ONCE-AND-FORMER COLONIES..



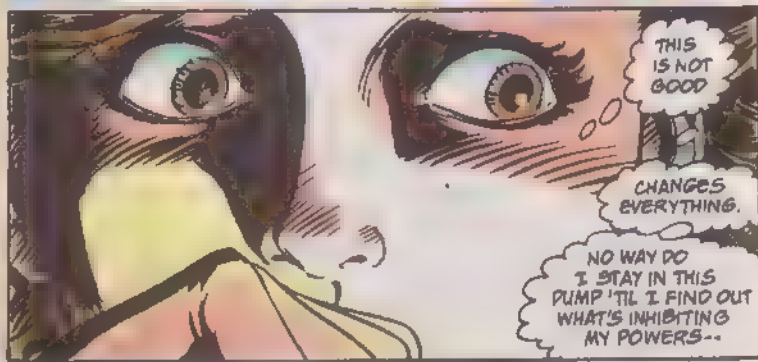
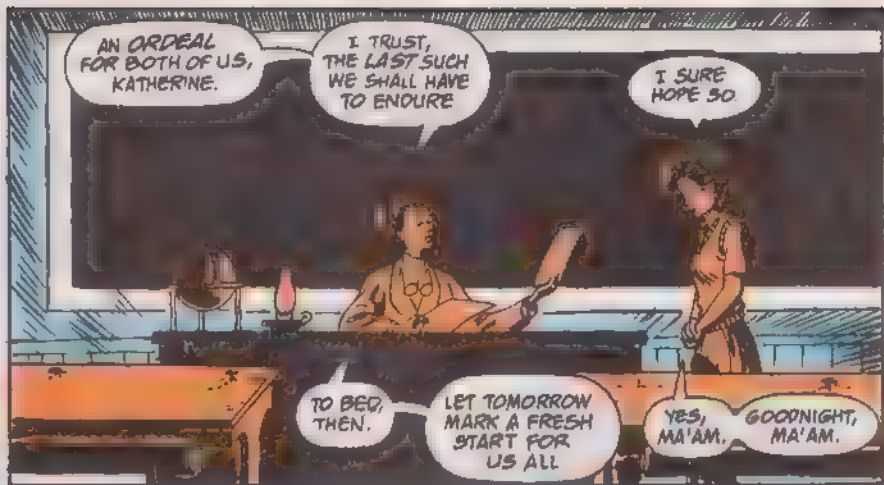
.. BUT HERE IN BRITAIN, WE STILL TREAT THE ACT OF WRITING--

-- AS AN ART.

THIS PAGE IS UNACCEPTABLE.

PLEASE BEGIN AGAIN.









LONDON...

THE NATIONAL GALLERY

GIVEN THE EXTRAORDINARY VALUE OF FINE ART THESE DAYS...

--IT'S ONLY NATURAL THE MUSEUMS THAT HOUSE THEM SHOULD BECOME THE TARGETS OF THOSE WHOSE AMBITION IS TO CONQUER THE MARKET...

...WITHOUT PAYING A PROVERBIAL DIME.

HILARY...

...WE ARE NOT AMUSED.

AND EVEN LESS IMPRESSED.

GIVE US A BREAK, WARR! THIS IS A STATE-OF-THE-ART SECURITY SYSTEM!

AND I WAS LED TO BELIEVE YOURS A CUTTING-EDGE ~~SYSTEM~~ WHICH IS WHY I CONSENTED TO THIS "AUDITION." AS COMEONOR OF LONDON, I CAN ONLY AFFORD TO ASSOCIATE WITH THE VERY BEST.

LIFE IS TOUGH, VIX. YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO LEARN TO LIVE WITH THE DISAPPOINTMENT.

HI THERE, SWEETIE. NEW IN TOWN?



I'M PHOENIX. HE'S NIGHT-CRAWLER.

WE'RE EXCALIBUR.

ALLOW US TO WELCOME YOU TO TOWN.

VIXEN'S GETTING AWAY!

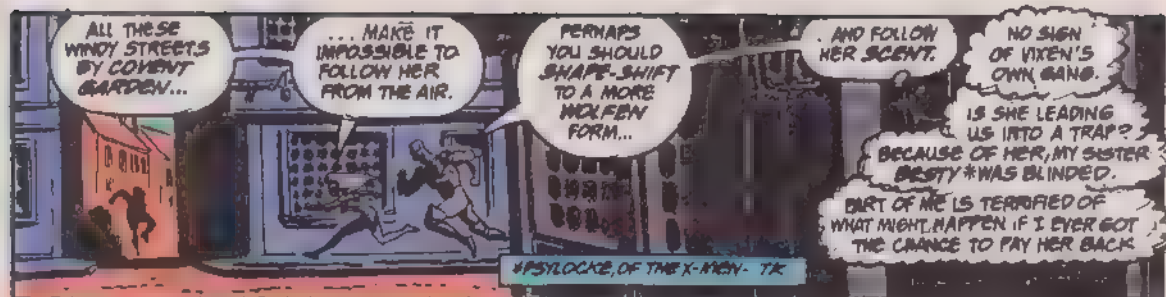
I'LL CATCH HER!

CAREFUL, MEGAN!

SHE MAY HAVE NO SUPER-POWERS OF HER OWN...

"BUT SHE'S AS WILY-- AND DANGEROUS-- AS THEY COME!"





ALL THESE WINDY STREETS BY COVENT GARDEN...

... MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO FOLLOW HER FROM THE AIR.

PERHAPS YOU SHOULD SHAPE-SHIFT TO A MORE MEN-FEM FORM...

AND FOLLOW HER SCENT.

NO SIGN OF VIXEN'S OWN GANG.

IS SHE LEADING US INTO A TRAP? BECAUSE OF HER, MY SISTER BESTY \*WAS BLINDED.

PART OF ME IS TERRIFIED OF WHAT MIGHT HAPPEN IF I EVER GOT THE CHANCE TO PAY HER BACK

#PSYLOCATE, OF THE X-MEN. TK



PART OF ME...

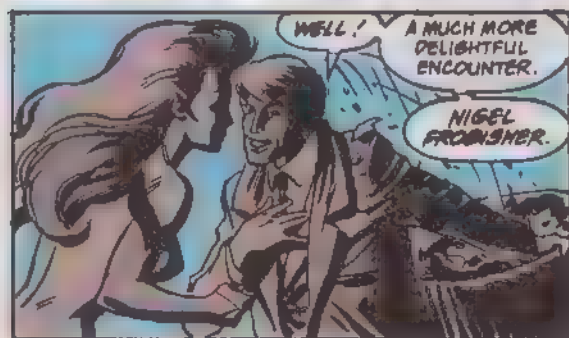
...CAN'T WAIT!

WHAT THE BLAZES--?!

STINKING BLOODY COW--

--STREETS BIG ENOUGH FOR A FLIPPING CAR--

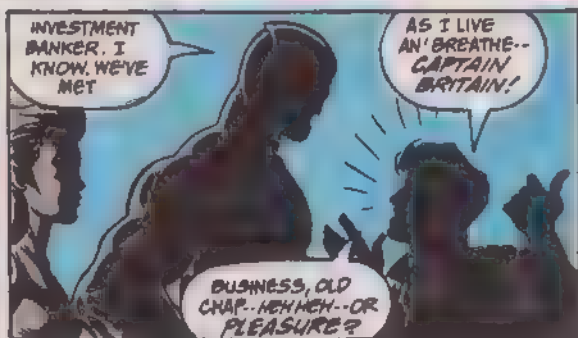
--THERE WAS NO NEED TO RUN ME DOWN!



WELL!

A MUCH MORE DELIGHTFUL ENCOUNTER.

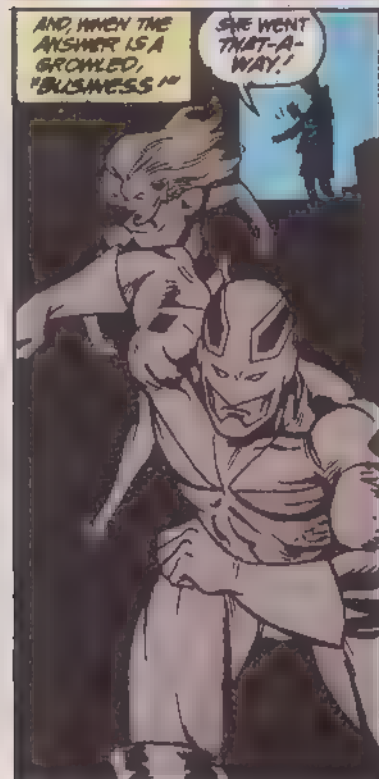
NIGEL FROISHER.



INVESTMENT BANKER. I KNOW, WE'VE MET

AS I LIVE AN' BREATHE-- CAPTAIN BRITAIN!

BUSINESS, OLD CHAP--HEH HEH--OR PLEASURE?



AND, WHEN THE ANSWER IS A GROWLED, "BUSINESS!"

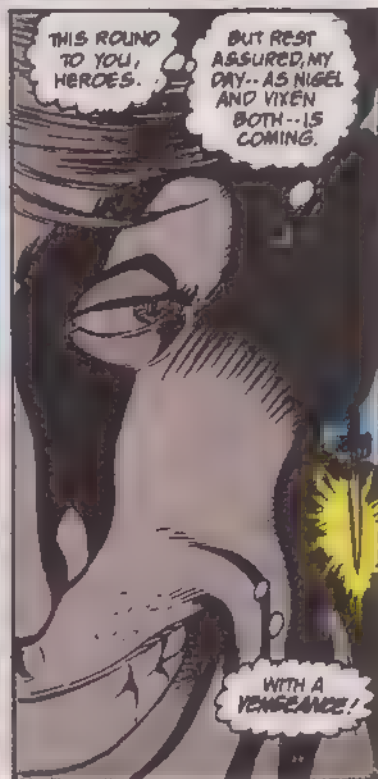
SHE WENT THAT-A-WAY!



SILLY SORCS

NOT HALF A BRAIN BETWEEN THAT WHOLE COMBINED, CRETINOUS TEAM.

CERTAINLY NO MATCH FOR ME.



THIS ROUND TO YOU, HERODES.

BUT REST ASSURED, MY DAY-- AS NIGEL AND VIXEN BOTH--IS COMING.

WITH A VENGEANCE!



IN HER TIME, KITTY PRYDE'S MET GODS AND DEMONS, SAINTS AND MADMEN

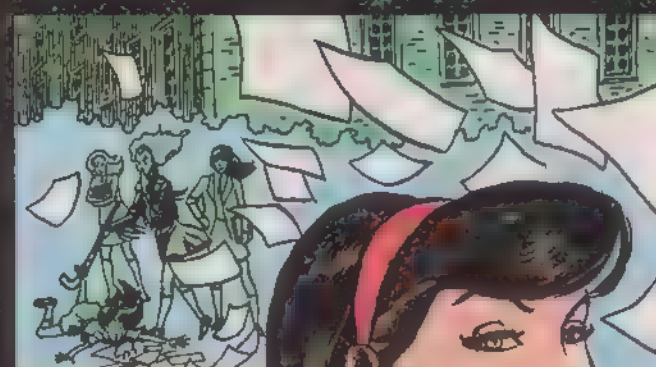
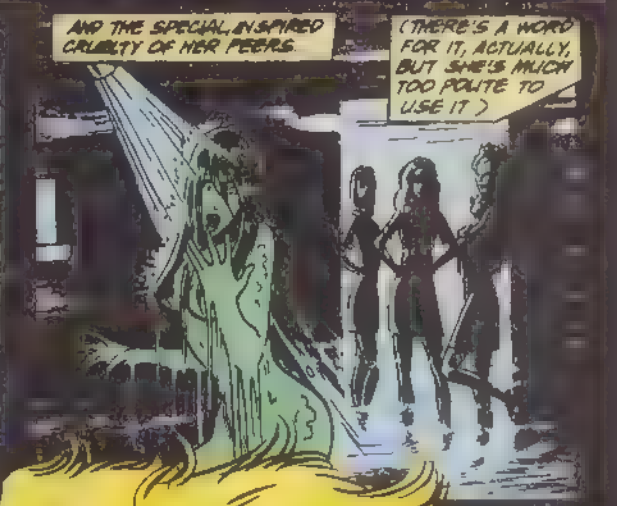
SHE'S TRAVELED TO THE FURTHEST REACHES OF TIME AND SPACE, AND SAVED THE WORLD MORE TIMES THAN SHE CARES TO COUNT.

SHE'S LED A LIFE BEYOND MOST PEOPLE'S WILDEST DREAMS.

BUT NOTHING IN THAT EXPERIENCE IS THE LEAST PREPARATION FOR THESE EARLY WEEKS AT ST. SEARLE'S

AND THE SPECIAL, INSPIRED CRUELTY OF HER PEERS.

(THERE'S A WORD FOR IT, ACTUALLY, BUT SHE'S MUCH TOO POLITE TO USE IT.)



BACK IN CHICAGO, SHE WAS SO FAR AHEAD OF HER AGE-GROUP ACADEMICALLY, SHE HAD VIRTUALLY NOTHING TO DO WITH THEM.

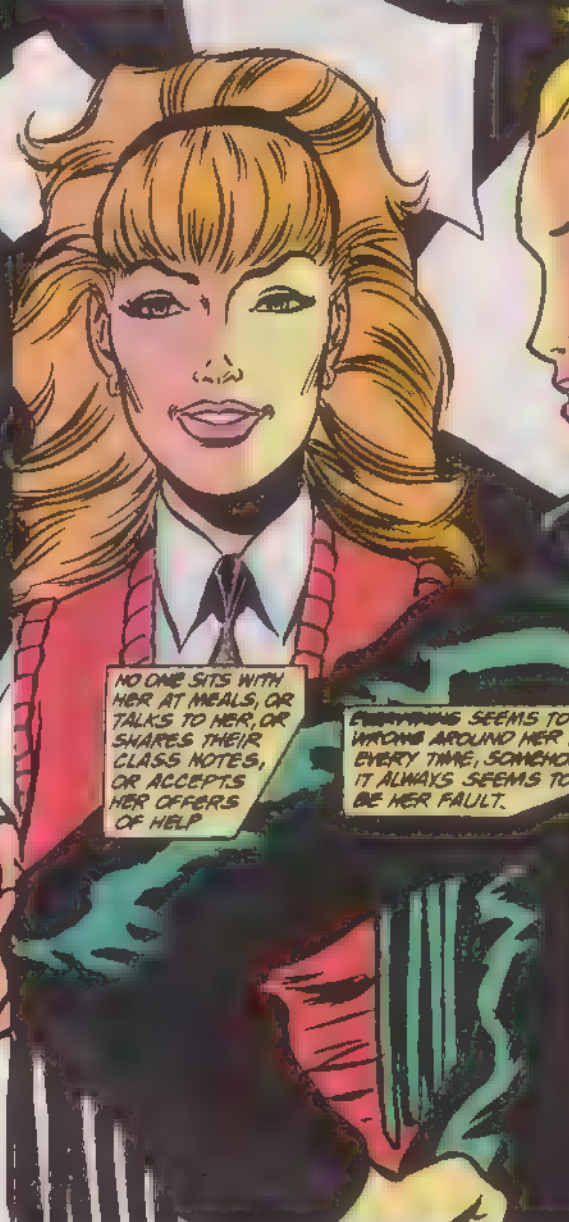


WHEN EVERYONE ELSE WAS GEARING UP FOR JUNIOR HIGH...

...SHE WAS TAKING COLLEGE-LEVEL COURSES.

AND LATER, AMONG THE X-MEN AND EXCALIBUR, AGE DIDN'T MATTER. ONCE SHE'D PROVED HERSELF, SHE WAS ONE OF THE TEAM AND THAT WAS THAT.

THIS IS DIFFERENT



NO ONE SITS WITH HER AT MEALS, OR TALKS TO HER, OR SHARES THEIR CLASS NOTES, OR ACCEPTS HER OFFERS OF HELP

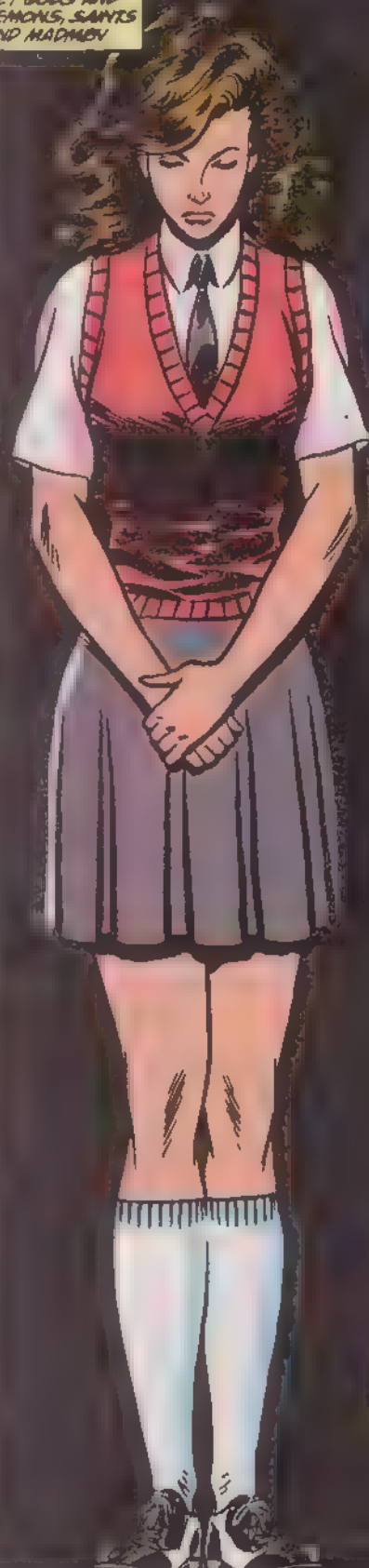
EVERYTHING SEEMS TO GO WRONG AROUND HER AND EVERY TIME, SOMEHOW, IT ALWAYS SEEMS TO BE HER FAULT.

IT'S A RARE DAY, IN FACT, THAT DOESN'T FIND HER BEFORE MISS RUTHERFORD, WRITING YET ANOTHER THOUSAND LINES (AND THE LOOK OF PROFOUND DISAPPOINTMENT IN THE HEAD-MISTRESS'S EYES IS BY FAR THE WORST PART OF THAT PUNISHMENT TO BEAR)...

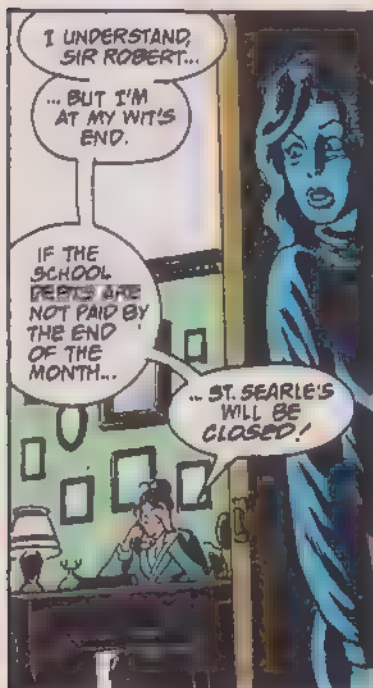
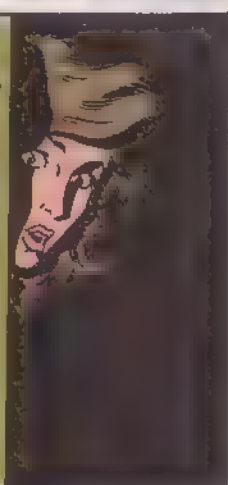
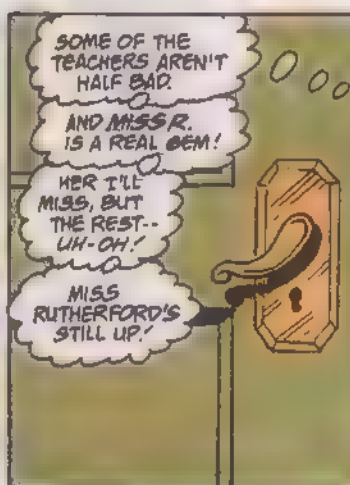
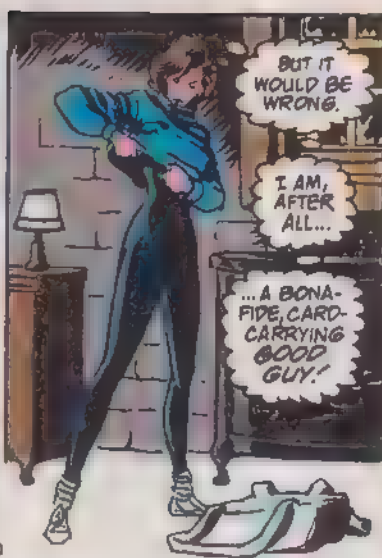
AND, IN SURPRISINGLY SHORT ORDER, KITTY FINDS HERSELF RESTRICTED TO THE SCHOOL GROUNDS FOR THE ENTIRE TERM.

IF, SHE FIGURES, SHE LASTS THAT LONG.

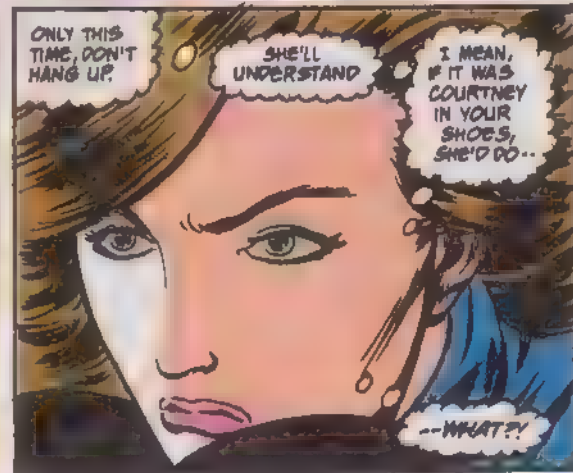
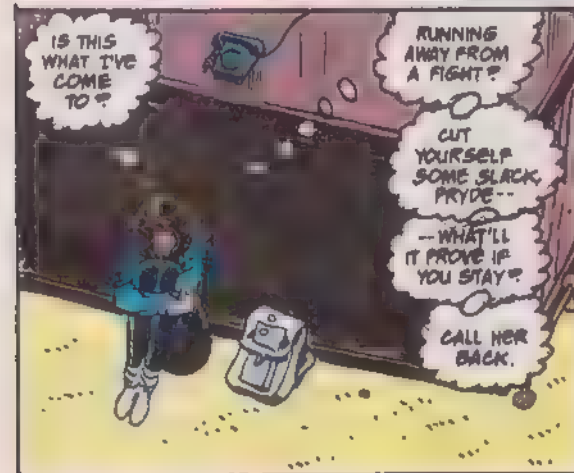
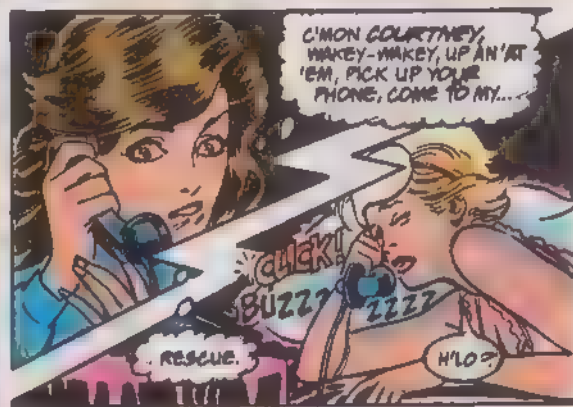
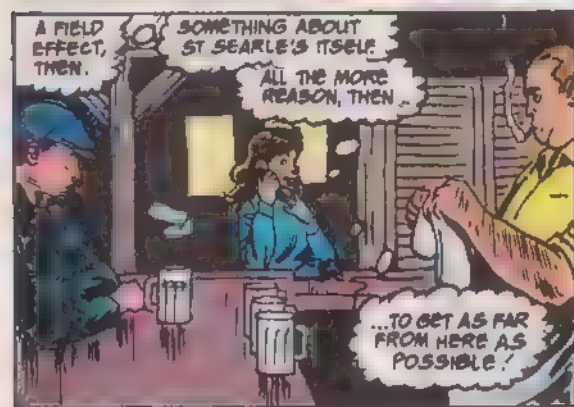
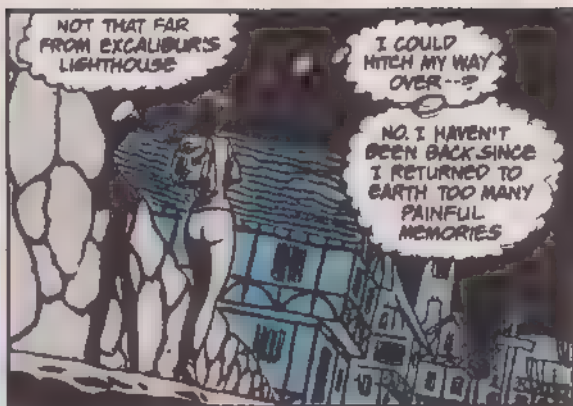
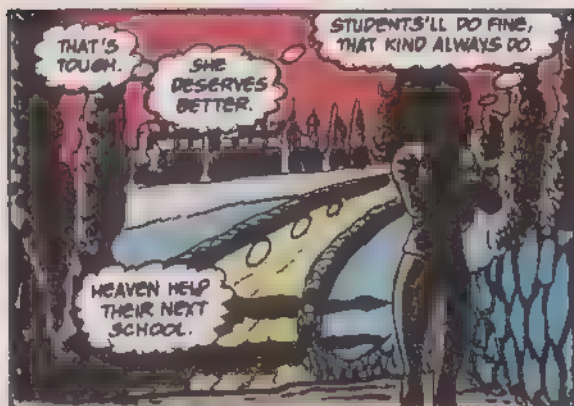
OR (MORE LIKELY) DOESN'T KILL SOMEONE FIRST



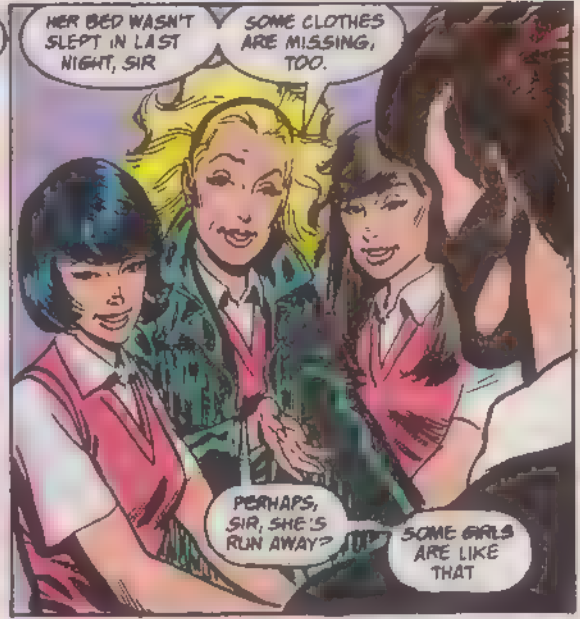
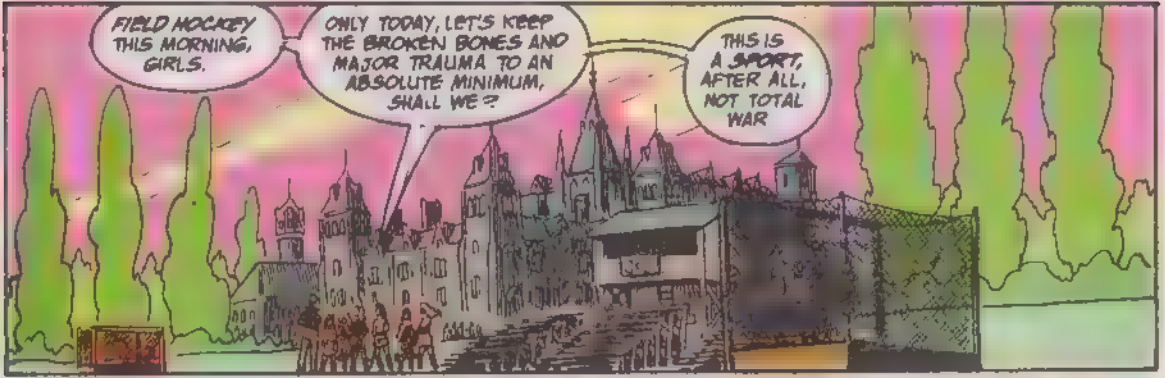








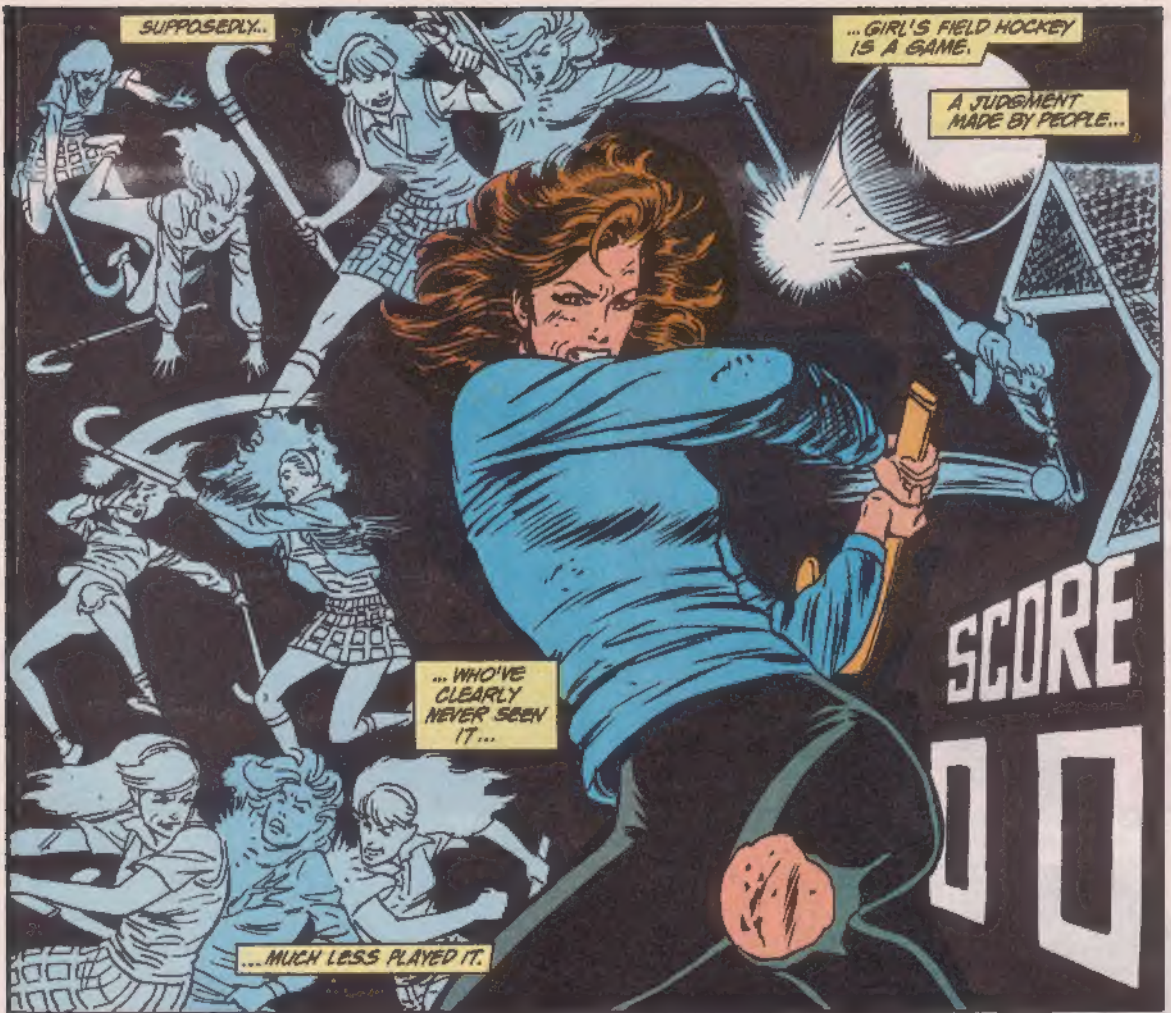












SUPPOSEDLY...

...GIRL'S FIELD HOCKEY  
IS A GAME.

A JUDGMENT  
MADE BY PEOPLE...

...WHO'VE  
CLEARLY  
NEVER SEEN  
IT...

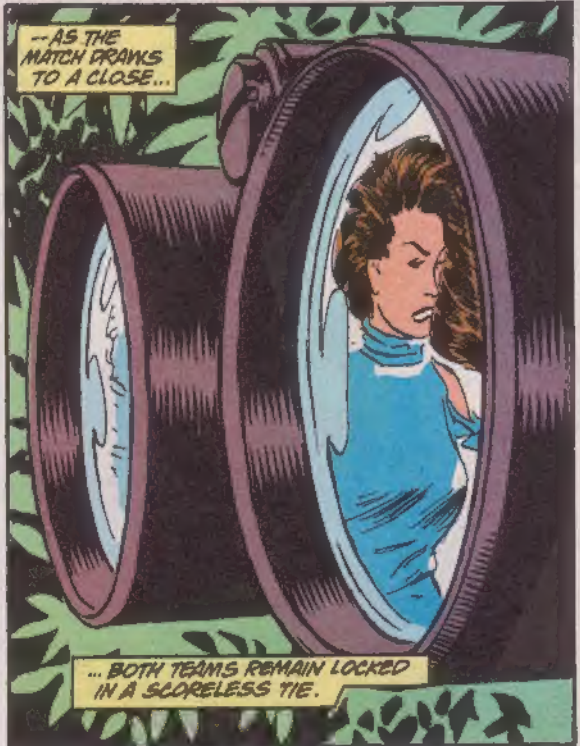
...MUCH LESS PLAYED IT.

SCORE  
00



BUT FOR ALL THE  
PUNISHMENT KITTY  
ENDURES--

-- (WHICH IS  
CONSIDERABLE)--



-- AS THE  
MATCH DRAWS  
TO A CLOSE...

... BOTH TEAMS REMAIN LOCKED  
IN A SCORELESS TIE.







